party politics and should receive the highest national priority. A Committee of the NDC has been set up to oversee population issues and evolve a National Population Policy.

(ii) In the Conference of Ministers incharge of Health and Family Wel fare of States/UTs held in January, 1992. there was unanimity that popu lation control is *of urgen*t national importance. The Action Plan formu lated by the Government, in close consultation with the State Govern ment, /Union Territories administra tion for giving a new thrust and dyna mism to the Family Welfare Program me was unanimously endorsed for implementation.

(iii) Population Control has been identified as one of the thrust areas in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(el Dr. Karan Singh while delivering the 25th Shri Ram Memorial Lecture on "Population: the forgotten factor" under the, auspices of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), has also [suggested setting up a 'technology mission" on population and introduction of a national movement for population control (NMPC) with immediate effect.

(d) Government's view are already indicated at part (a) and (b) above.

Statutory warning on TOBACCO products

1002. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make "Statutory warning" compulsory to all tobacco products as is being done in the case of cigarettes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI S1DDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

Dreg for leprosy

1003. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Govern ment have refused to offer trials of a new drug for leprosy; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) No Sir. The trial for new drug (Ofloxacin) in combination with other drags for treatment of leprosy has heen cleared.

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of group B.C. and D posts in A.I.I.M.S.

1004. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re ceived report of Career Development Committee set up in 1986 and Cadre Review Committee set up in 1990 re-garding promotion of Group B, C and D posts in AU India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; land

(c) the decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MENOGSTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI STOiDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The recommendations made by the Cadre Review Committee have been approved by the Standing Finance Committee aijd the Governing Body of me

Institute, the same are to be implemented by the Institute *w.e.f.* 1-3-92.

Inadequate welth services in Trans Yamuna Areas

1005. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report about the inadequate public health infrastructure in the Trans-Yamuna area of Delhi which appeared in Indian Express of Feb. 14, 1992;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The medical facilities in Delhi including Trans-Yamuna area, are being provided by Central Government, Delhi Administration, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Private hospitals etc. At present, Delhi Administration is running 750 bedded Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and 29 dispensaries in the Trans-Yamuna area and O.P.D. services have also been started in the 100 bedded Hospital at Khidiripur. In addition to the above facilities provided by Delhi Administration, eight dispensaries are being run under the C.G.H.S, in the Trans-Yamuna area. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi also run three dispen-saries and two hospitals in this area.

The Delhi Administration is in the process of acquiring a suitable piece of land in Mundalike-Fazalpur Development area for setting up a 20C bedded Hospital. Indoor facilities are expected to be made available in the 100 bedded hospital at Khichrinpur during 1992-93. The Government also proposed to start a poly-clinic at Swasthya Vihar under C.G.H.S.

Blindness among children

1006. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that millions of children lose their eye sight in the country due to malnutrition;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the number of such blind children in the State of Madhya Pradesh as on 31st December, 1991; and

(d) what remedial action Government have taken or proposes to take to prevent blindness amongst the children dt?e to malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Exact information about the incidence of blindness among children due to malnutrition is not available. A country wide survey conducted by ICMR has shown ft at about 7 per cent of pre-school children exhibit clinical signs of Vitamin 'A' deficiency. The overall prevalence of conjunctival exerosis, Bitot's spots and Keratomalacia were 4.2, 2.9 and 0.1 per cent respectively. The results of surveys carried out more recently show that there is a declining trend in the prevalence of Vitamin 'A' deficiency (National Institute of Nutrition. 1978, 1980).

(c) There is no separate data available for the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Government is implementing a Programme of Prophylaxis against Blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency wherein children in the age-group of 1-5 years are given oral dose of 2 lakh I.U. of Vitamin 'A' in oil every six months.

Promotion of Family Plannnrg

1007. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the absolute growth trend in population indicates that the country's population is